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UNCLAS ANKARA 007318

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/RUS, OES/STC, EB/TPP/ATP, EB/TPP/BTA
HHS FOR WSTEIGER/PBUDASHEWITZ
FAS FOR ITP/MACKE/THOMAS, CMP/DLP/WETZEL
FAS PASS FSIS AND APHIS
VIENNA PASS APHIS
BRUSSELS PASS APHIS/FERNANDEZ
GENEVA PASS HEALTH ATTACHE

E.O. 12958:N/A

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SUBJECT: Avian Influenza Situation Update in Turkey

Ref: (A) Ankara 5119 (B) Ankara 6105 (C) Ankara 6138
(D) Ankara 6232 (E) Ankara 6291 (F) Ankara 6430
(G) Ankara 6514 (H) Ankara 6605 (G) Ankara 7034

1. The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture's Protection and Control Division published its fourth and final report on Avian Influenza (AI) on December 8, 2005 and submitted it to the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE).
2. The report declares that the country is free of AI and indicates that the complete quarantine is lifted.
3. The report also summarizes the AI outbreak in Turkey as follows: the outbreak started on October 1, 2005, in a small turkey farm in the Manyas District of Balikesir province, a sparsely populated area. In total, 1700 turkeys died of AI and 100 more were destroyed on that farm.
4. There have been no new outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AI) in Turkey since the October outbreak. The GOT continues to monitor for any future outbreaks and maintains good surveillance of any suspicious bird deaths in the country.

WILSON